



Office of the President

April 9, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

On Tuesday evening, Maine Department of Education Commissioner Pender Makin, with the support of Governor Mills, made the recommendation that Maine schools continue remote learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Informed by this recommendation, I have made the decision that **Cheverus will continue remote learning for the remainder of this school year.**

Early next week, after the Easter break, **Dr. Moran will provide important details about schedules, grading, and how this decision impacts culminating events such as graduation.**

Spring on our Ocean Avenue campus brings with it such hope and excitement. The coming months are traditionally full of milestone events and celebrations. The rich traditions that define the Cheverus experience in many ways define the second semester, from welcoming the incoming freshmen, to coming together to recognize the many accomplishments of our underclassmen and of course celebrating our seniors. We know that losing these touchpoints is difficult – most especially for our seniors. As Dr. Moran said in his letter last week, we will hold graduation, prom, and baccalaureate Mass. We want to provide closure to the school year and recognize the great accomplishments of our remarkable seniors when it is safe to do so. We are working diligently to reimagine these events. While they may look different than we anticipated, ensuring these events embody the spirit of Cheverus and amplify the deep sense of community is our top priority.

Cheverus is committed to continuing meaningful academic engagement through our remote learning, in addition to caring for the person, *cura personalis*, both emotionally and spiritually. We have all been impacted by this public health crisis and will continue to be shaped by it in profound and unforgettable ways. We will accompany one another through this dark time, and I believe we will be better human beings and a stronger community having done so together.

To our students, know that you are missed. When I look at campus from the Jesuit Residence, the parking lot is empty and the campus does not have the energy and life it does when you are present. I look forward to the day when we can all be together again. To our seniors, the sting of losing the senior spring you anticipated hurts. Please know that you have a special place in my heart and in my prayers as you grieve the loss of a special time in your lives.

To parents and guardians, I want to express my deep gratitude for all you have done to support your students. There is a strong partnership between Cheverus and our parents and guardians, and I want you to know that we are here to support you, too. The Cheverus experience is often reflected on by past-parents and alumni as a family experience. We know these days of disrupted schedules, marked by high stress levels and anxiety can be difficult to navigate. Please reach out and let us know if there are ways we can support you and your student/s at this time.

I believe our mission gives us clear direction on how we proceed. We are *people for and with others*. Our entire faculty, staff, administration, campus ministers and guidance counselors are here to support our students and families – and one another. We will continue to strengthen our bonds in new ways and creatively continue to build community. We are also people of hope. This year, Holy Week takes on new meaning. Connecting with our Lord's suffering is more accessible in the midst of this global pandemic. But we cannot forget the immense hope that Easter brings. Let us create the space for the Light of Christ in our homes and in our hearts. I will remember each of you in my Easter Mass, which will be live-streamed on our Facebook page at 10 a.m. this Sunday. Together, we can celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

For Cheverus,

Fr. Robert J. Pecoraro, S.J.

President